

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice and amend claim 17 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A network system comprising:

a center;

a relay station device; and

a terminal communicating with said center via said relay station device, and

wherein said relay station device has a first function for directly communicating with said center and a second function for communicating with said center via another relay station,

wherein one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function is set to said relay station device, and wherein a said mode is selected based upon a communication quantity of said relay station device.

2. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, wherein when a communication quantity of said relay station device is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said relay station device is set to said first operating mode.

3. (Original) The network system according to claim 2, wherein when said first operating mode is set to said relay station device and said communication quantity of said relay station device is less than said threshold value, said relay station device is switched from said first operating mode to said second operating mode.

4. (Previously Presented) A network system comprising:

a center;

a relay station device; and

a terminal communicating with said center via said relay station device, and

wherein said relay station device has a first function for directly communicating with said center and a second function for communicating with said center via another relay station, wherein one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function is set to said relay station device, and wherein when said relay station device cannot communicate with a host station including said another relay station, said relay station device is set to said first operating mode,

wherein when said relay station device cannot communicate with said host station including said another relay station, said relay station device outputs a communication stop signal indicating said host station to said center, and wherein when said host station can communicate with said relay station device, said host station outputs to said center a recovery declaration signal indicating that said host station can communicate with said relay station device, and wherein said center outputs to said relay station device a recovery notification signal indicating that said host station is communicable based on said communication stop signal and said recovery declaration signal, and wherein said relay station device is switched from said first operating mode to said second operating mode in response to said recovery notification signal.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A network system, comprising: a center; a first relay station device; a second relay station device provided between said center and said first relay station device; and a terminal communicating with said center via said first and second relay station devices, and wherein said first relay station device has a first function for directly communicating with said center and a second function for communicating with said center via said second relay station device and another relay station, and wherein said second relay station device transmits to said first relay station device a communication quantity data indicating a communication quantity in said second relay station device, and wherein said first relay station device is set to one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function based on said communication quantity data.

8. (Original) A network system, comprising: a center; a relay station device; and a terminal communicating with said center via said relay station device, and wherein said relay station device has a first function for directly communicating with said center and a second function for communicating with said center via another relay station, and wherein one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function is set to said relay station device in response to a message indicating mode switching transmitted from a slave station including said terminal.

9. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein a mobile communication network line is used for communication between said another relay station and said center, and wherein at least one of communication between said relay station device and said another relay station and communication between said relay station device and said terminal is made through direct communication between terminals.

10. (Original) The network system according to claim 7, wherein a mobile communication network line is used for communication between said another relay station and said center, and wherein at least one of communication between said relay station device and said another relay station and communication between said relay station device and said terminal is made through direct communication between terminals.

11. (Original) The network system according to claim 8, wherein a mobile communication network line is used for communication between said another relay station and said center, and wherein at least one of communication between said relay station device and said another relay station and communication between said relay station device and said terminal is made through direct communication between terminals.

12. (Previously Presented) A relay station device, comprising:

a relay unit relaying communication between a center and a terminal;

a first executing unit executing a first function for directly communicating with said center; and

a second executing unit executing a second function for communication with said center via another relay station,

wherein one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function is set to said relay station device, and

wherein a said mode is selected based upon a communication quantity of said relay station device.

13. (Previously Presented) The relay station device according to claim 12, wherein when a communication quantity of said relay station device is equal to or greater than a threshold value, said relay station device is set to said first operating mode.

14. (Cancelled) The relay station device according to claim 12, wherein one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function is set to said relay station device, and wherein when said relay station device cannot communicate with a host station including said another relay station, said relay station device is set to said first operating mode.

15. (Cancelled) The relay station device according to claim 13, wherein when said relay station device cannot communicate with a host station including said another relay station, said relay station device is set to said first operating mode.

16. (Previously Presented) A relay station device, comprising:  
  
a relay unit relaying communication between a center and a terminal;  
  
a first executing unit executing a first function for directly communicating with said center; and

a second executing unit executing a second function for communication with said center via another relay station, wherein said relay station device is set to one of a first operating mode for executing said first function and a second operating mode for executing said second function, and where in said relay station device is set to one of said first operating mode and said second operating mode in response to a message indicating mode switching received from a slave station including said terminal.

17. (Currently Amended) A relay station device, comprising:

a relay unit relaying communication between a center and a terminal;

a first executing unit executing a first function for directly communicating with said center; and

a second executing unit executing a second function for communication with said center via another relay station, wherein said relay station device is set to one of ~~said~~ a first operating mode for executing said first function and ~~said~~ a second operating mode for executing said second function in response to a message indicating mode switching received from a slave station including said terminal.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The relay station device according to claim 12, wherein a mobile communication network line is used for communication between said another relay station and said center, and wherein at least one of communication between said relay station device

and said another relay station and communication between said relay station device and said terminal is made through direct communication between terminals.

20. (Original) The relay station device according to claim 13, wherein a mobile communication network line is used for communication between said another relay station and said center, and wherein at least one of communication between said relay station device and said another relay station and communication between said relay station device and said terminal is made through direct communication between terminals.